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CLASSIFICATION SECRET/NOFORN/CONTINUED CONTROL

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 7 April 1955

SUBJECT Jachymov Mines: Elias Mine and Other Mines and Installations

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DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. The Elias mine was subordinate to the directorate of the Jachymov mines. The mine had levels at depths of 90, 120, 180, 230, 280, and 33[illegible] meters. The rocks of the galleries were continuously tested with uranium-measuring equipment. When the counter showed a positive reaction, a hole about 30 cm. deep was bored into the wall and the sample material was then put on special mine cars. The work force at the mine consisted of 900 forced laborers and 100 civilians who worked in three shifts.

2. The output at the mine was 280 to 320 mine carloads per shift. Each mine car was loaded with 75 to 150 kg. of ore. The ore mined per shift was subsequently sorted according to its radioactivity. From 6 to 10 freight cars were loaded with ore showing 80 to 90 percent radioactivity (R-material); from 8 to 12 freight cars were loaded with ore showing a 30 to 80 percent radioactivity (A-material); and about 10 freight cars were loaded with sterile rocks which had a radioactivity of below 30 percent (U-material).

3. Two measuring sets were available for the testing of the ore at the so-called radiometric station. Each mine car which left the mine had to pass through this station. The workers were greatly interested in the radioactivity of the ore mined by them because their wages fluctuated in accordance with the percentage of the radioactivity of the ore. The sorting station of the Elias mine was housed in several wooden sheds. At the sorting station R and A-material was crushed by hand, put on sorting tables and sorting conveyor belts, where the uranium content was tested with measuring sets. U-material was dropped on a special dump.

4. The ore mined at the Elias mine had a bright black to brown color. High-grade ore was loaded in boxes measuring about 40 x 50 x 35 cm. and shipped out on trucks. Each box weighed about 100 kg. An estimated 3 to 4 trucks loaded with such boxes were dispatched daily at the Elias mine. 50X1-HUM [illegible] the ore was dispatched to the USSR.

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5. The Elias ore processing plant (Upravna Elias) is the largest and most up-to-date installation of its kind in Czechoslovakia. The machinery of the plant had been delivered by the USSR or East Germany. The ore-processing plant processed the ore mined at the Elias, Rovnost, Nikolai, Eva, and Barbora mines. Work was done in three shifts. The work force of the installation included 200 civilian workers and 100 to 200 forced laborers. Ore arrived at the processing plant from

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STATE	X	NAVY	X	NSRB		DISTRIBUTION		ORR	X		
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the Rovnost mine on a conveyor belt; from the Eva mine by means of an electrified narrow-gauge field railway; and from the other mines by truck. An average of 200 tons of ore was processed per shift. The final product was a brown radioactive powder. The output per shift was 0.5 to 1 ton of such powder. In order to deceive control organs, barrels in which pitchblende was shipped were often filled with low-grade material with a thin layer of high quality pitchblende on top of it. This fraud was committed because the workers were afraid of not fulfilling their production quotas, with resulting loss of wages.

6. Equipment available at the ore processing plant included 4 charging bunkers, 4 vibrating drums, 4 ball crushers, and 25 shaking sieves.

7. After the ore had been crushed to fragments 2 cm. in diameter it was transported on conveyor belts to storage bins. From the storage bins the crushed ore was taken to the vibrating drums where it was crushed to the size of coarse sand. The material was then fine-crushed at the ball crushers. The resulting powder was sorted on shaking sieves and the radioactive material was filled in barrels. The barrels then went to the drying plant. The processing method was rather wasteful and much fraud was committed by both Russians and Czechs.

8. About 1,800 forced laborers and an undetermined number of civilian workers were employed at the Rovnost mine; from 600 to 800 forced laborers and an undetermined number of civilian workers were employed at the Nikolai mine; about 500 forced laborers and an undetermined number of civilian workers worked at the Eva mine.

9. Two large camps for prisoners who were in sickly condition were located in Vykmanov. These prisoners were employed on loading work and on road-construction work. From 1,800 to 2,000 men were detained in each of the two camps.

10. In the summer of 1953, ore of the highest uranium content was found at the Barbora mine. No such ore had ever been found in the Czechoslovakian mining district.

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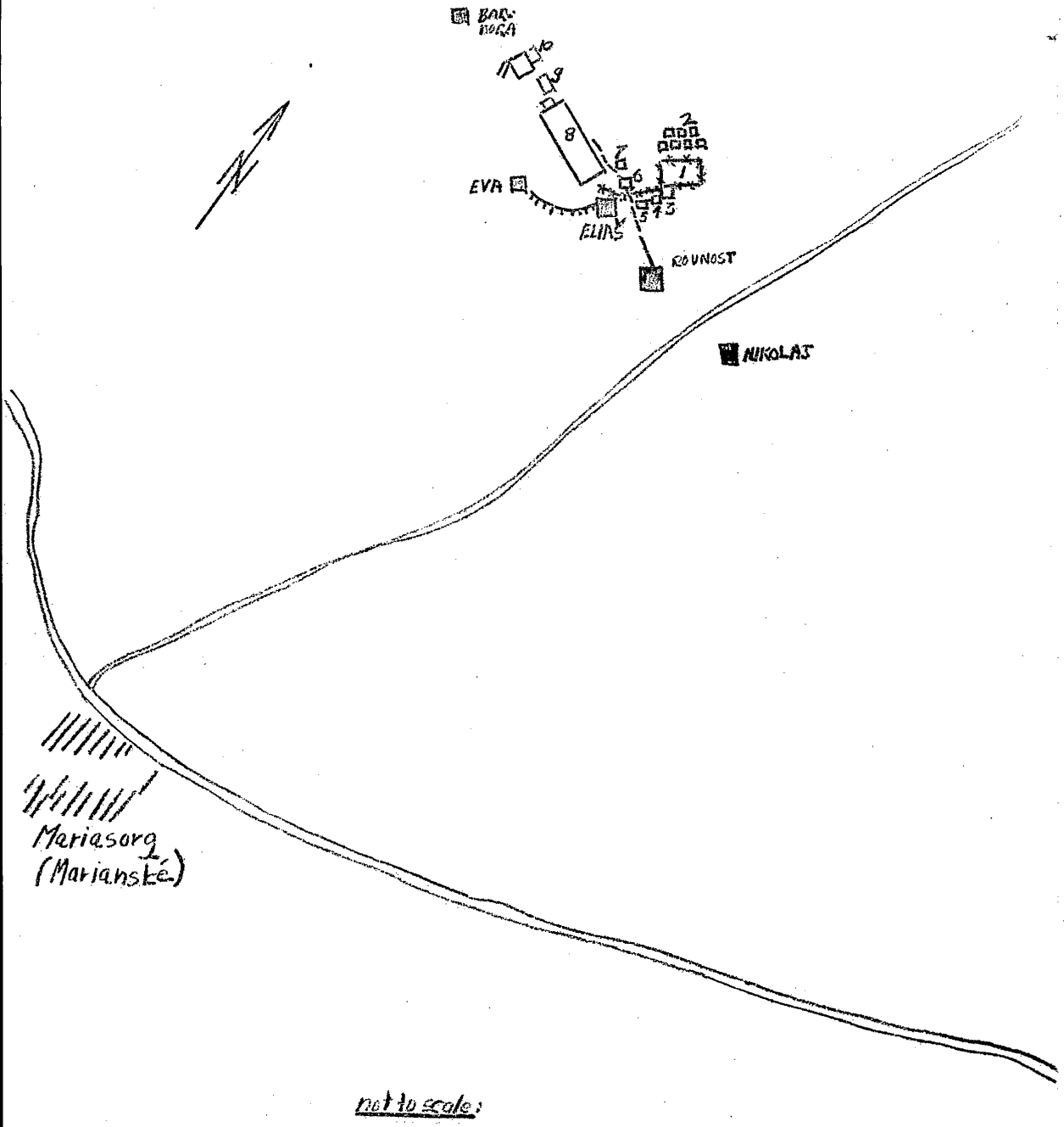
Legend: see next page

Annex I



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Annex 1 (continued)

Rovnost/Elias Ore Mining Area

Legend:

1 Camp for forced laborers
2 Dwelling houses
3 Guardhouse
4 PX shop
5 Administration
6 Ore-crushing plant
7 Workshop
8 Elias ore-processing plant
9 Laboratory
10 Storage shed
11 Management

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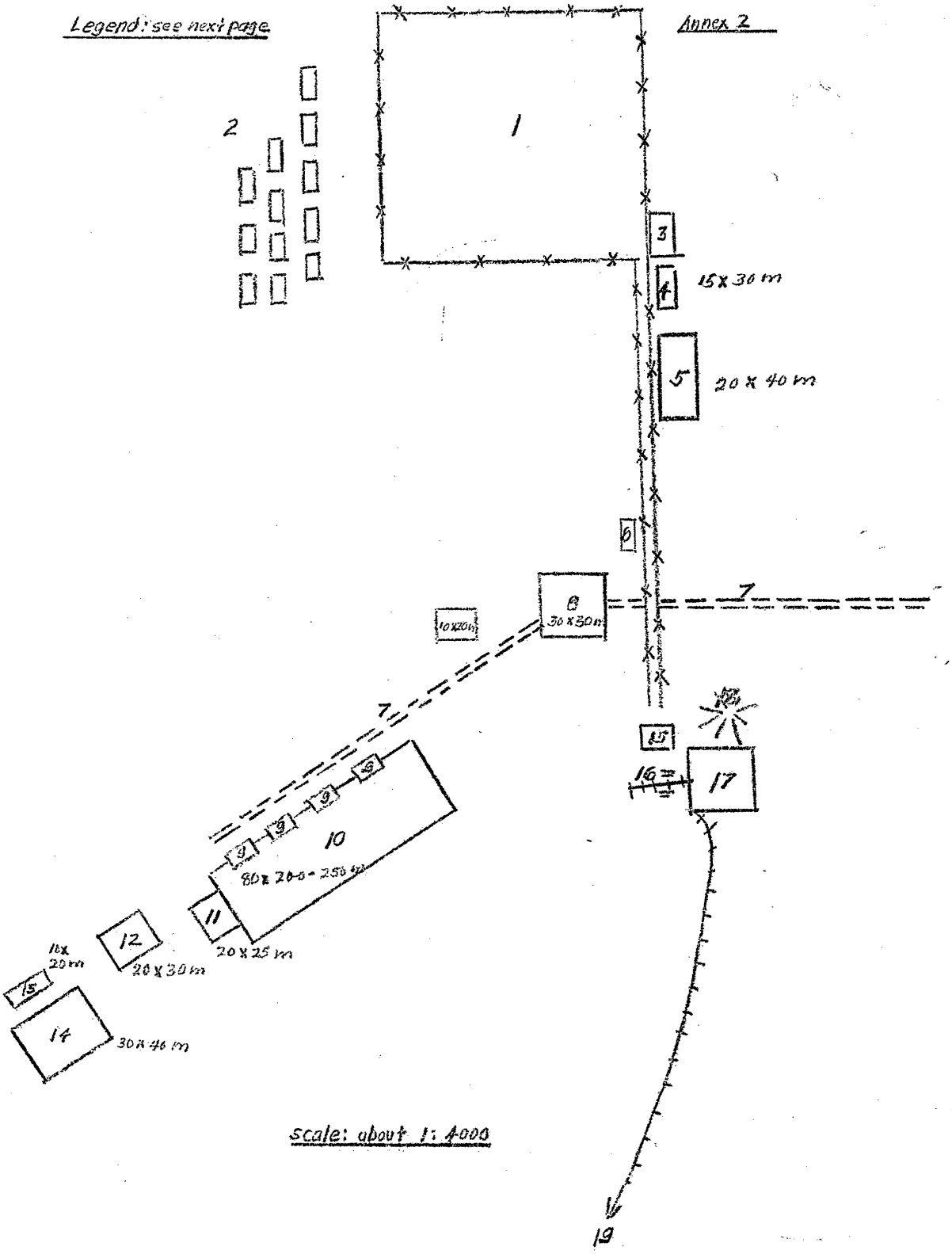
Legend: see next page

Annex 2



Annex 2 (continued)

Elias Mine

Legend:

1 Camp for forced laborers

2 Dwelling houses

3 Guardhouse

4 PX shop, a building 15 x 30 meters

5 Three-story administration building, 20 x 40 meters

6 Pay office

7 Conveyor belt to the Rovnost mine

8 Ore crushing plant, 30 x 30 meters

9 Ore bunker

10 Ore-processing plant, 200 x 80 meters

11 Drying plant, 20 x 25 meters

12 Laboratory, 20 x 30 meters

13 Storage shed, 10 x 20 meters

14 Plant management, a three-story building, 30 x 40 meters

15 OTK

16 Radiometer station

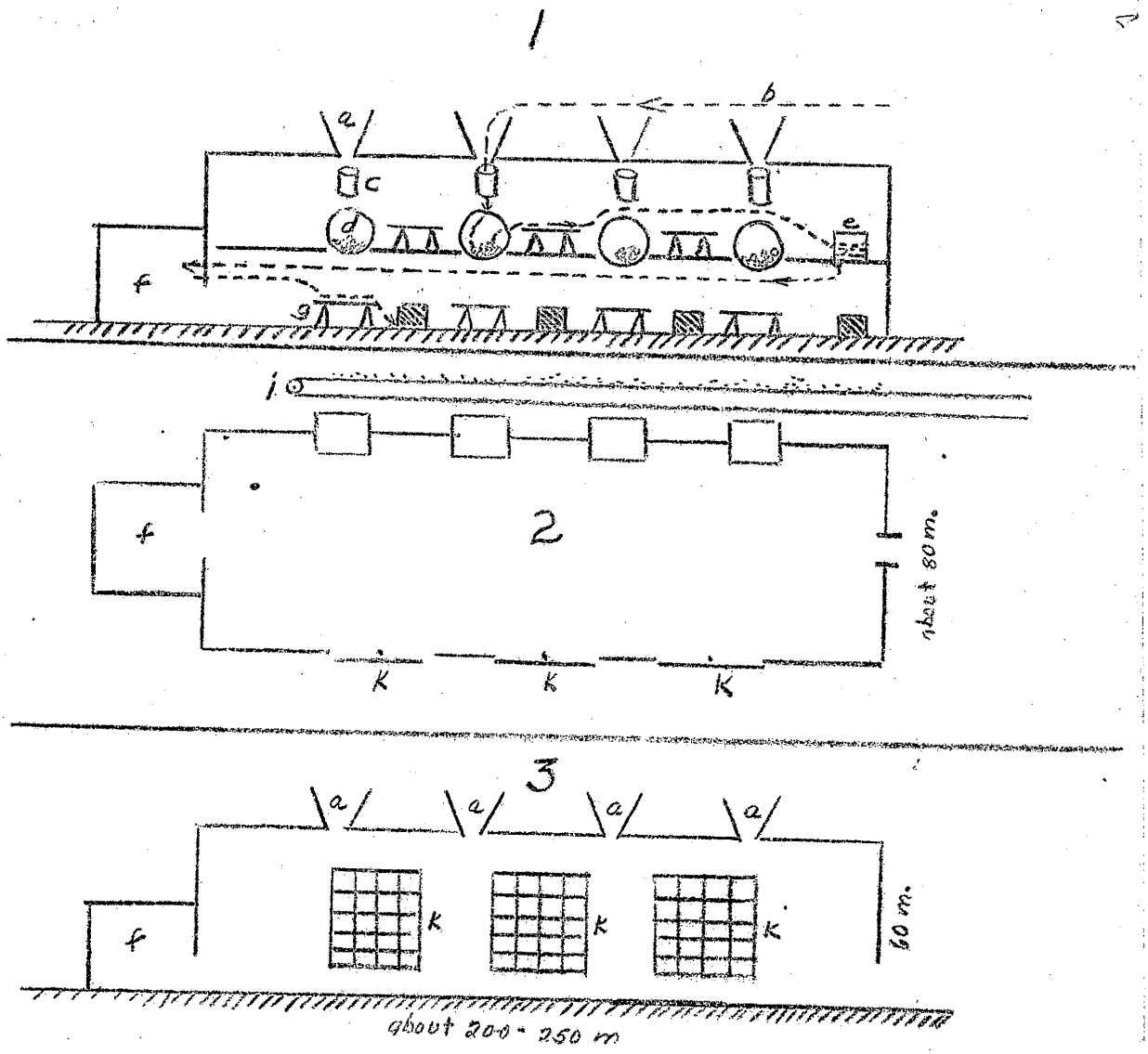
17 Elias mine

18 Dump of U-material

19 Electric railway line to the Eva mine

Legend: see next page

Annex 3



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Annex 3 (continued)

Elias Ore-Processing Plant

Legend:

1 Cross-section

a Bunker

b Ore on the way from the crushing station

c Vibrating drums

d Ball crushers

e Storage barrels

f Drying room

g Vibrating tables

h Barrels in which the end product was shipped out

2 Top view

i Conveyor belt from the Rovnost mine

k Windows

3 Outer view of the processing plant